

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims of the above-identified application to cancel claims directed to Groups II and III as listed in Item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006. Thus, the present amendments facilitate proceedings, eliminating the basis for the restriction requirement in the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006, by cancelling all claims other than the Group I claims.

In view of the present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement in the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006, is moot. In any event, in order to avoid any possible issues as to the present amendment being a complete response to the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006, Applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims for prosecution on the merits in the present application.

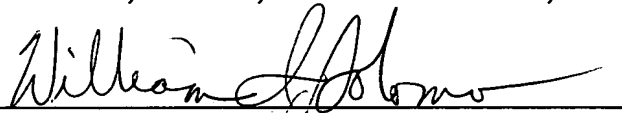
Allegations made by the Examiner in Items 3-6 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006, are noted. Such allegations are moot, in view of present claim amendments. In any event, it is emphasized that the present canceling of the Groups II and III claims is without prejudice or disclaimer, and in particular without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional application or applications directed to the subject matter thereof; and it is emphasized that the present amendments are to facilitate proceedings in connection with the above-identified application, and do not constitute an admission as to the propriety of, or agreement with, allegations made by the Examiner in Items 3-6 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006.

In view of all of the foregoing, entry of the present amendments, and examination of all claims remaining in the above-identified application, in due course, are respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper be charged to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case 1204.45675X00), and credit any excess payment of fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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